(a) whether it is a fact that there has been difference in sowing acreage of several kharif crops during 2007 and 2008;

(b) if so, the area of sowing land of rice (paddy), oil seeds, pulses and other cash crops during above years; and

(c) the reasons for the increase/decrease of sowing acreage of land during 2007-08 and how the consumers are likely to be affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been difference in sowing average of kharif crops during 2007 and 2008 as indicated in the table below:

(Lakh hectares)

Crop	Kharif 2008 (As on 17.10.2008)	Kharif 2007 (Corresponding period)
Rice (Paddy)	384.75	373.79
Oilseeds	183.44	177.43
Pulses	104.49	123.33
Sugarcane	44.15	52.95
Cotton	190.92	92.11

Source: Crop Weather Watch Group meeting.

(c) The area coverage under some crops of kharif 2008 was affected due to deficient/scanty rainfall at the critical time of sowing at some places during monsoon 2008 and floods in some parts of country. However, overall good rainfall has resulted in higher area coverage in some crops like rice. It is envisaged to bring additional area under rabi crops of 2008 which would compensate for the loss of area during kharif 2008-09 and, hence the consumers are not likely to be adversely affected.

Scheme for evolution of milching cattle

†799. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme for the evolution of milching cattle under the National Agricultural Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme and the date on which it was started; and

(c) the amount of fund allocated for this scheme each year alongwith the quantum of funds actually spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Genetic improvement is a long term activity and Government of India has initiated a major programme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" (NPCBB) from October 2000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

over a period of ten years, in two phases each of five years, with an allocation of Rs. 402 crores for phase-1. In order to consolidate the gain made during Phase-I and to enhance coverage Phase-II of the project has been initiated from December 2006, with an allocation of Rs 775.87 crores. NPCBB envisages genetic upgradation of bovine population on priority basis and also has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds.

(c) Year wise allocation and actual expenditure incurred since inception of the scheme is given at in the Statement.

Statement

Year wise allocation and actual expenditure incurred under NPCBB:

(Rs in crore)

Allocation	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
BE	44.00	46.00	50.00	48.00	55.00	95.00	106.00	51.00
RE	26.35	27.00	30.00	35.00	71.0983	95.14	152.00	-
Actual expenditure	15.71*	41.87	41.04	35.95	67.87	90.92	119.34**	49.48

Sick fertilizer units

800. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sick fertilizers/ chemicals manufacturing public enterprises under his Ministry;

(b) whether any interim relief has been sanctioned to those sick enterprises particularly the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the other measures proposed to make the sick units viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Out of the nine Public Sector Chemical Fertilizer companies under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers, only three are sick and are registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act. As on March, 2008, these are Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL). The details in respect of these units are indicated in the given Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Though it is not a sick unit, an amount of Rs. 200 crore had been sanctioned as interim relief to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., in order to sustain its operations as the company was facing a financial crisis due to steep and unprecedented increase in the prices of feedstock/raw materials like Naphtha, Sulphur, rock-phosphate, etc. Proposals are also under the active consideration of the Government, to revive the closed units of FCIL/ HFCL. A financial restructuring package in order to make the operations of Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL) viable is also under the active consideration of the Government.